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April 21, 1971

The Editor's Desk
The New York Times
229 West 43rd Street
New York, N.Y. 10036

To the Editor:

I have recently completed a book entitled "Frameup —The Martin Luther King, James Earl Ray Case," by Harold Weisberg. The book is extremely detailed and well documented, and it exposes the "mini-trial" of James Earl Ray for the disgraceful cover-up sham that it so obviously was. Weisberg's book proves beyond any shadow of a doubt that the King assassination was the result of a well-planned and efficiently implemented conspiracy in which Ray fulfilled the role of decoy.

This book is definitely newsworthy, and I think it extraordinary that the Times has not done a story on it. I find it even more extraordinary that to this date the Times has not even seen fit to review it, either in the daily Book Review or in the Sunday Book Review Supplement.

"Frame-Up" was reviewed in the April 10 issue of Saturday Review. The review said in part:

" The reek of conspiracy is on everything. Weisberg is an indefatigable researcher...He has pursued the facts, and they are there, buried in the mass of his book. And they are facts that lay claim to the conscience of America. For it should be clear by now that, if assassinations of some of the nation's most outstanding leaders are to be dismissed with the " one man-no conspiracy" refrain, there will be no deterrent to conspiracies in the future whenever hate may point the way and pull the trigger. And, in that event, this greatest of democracies will have been reduced to the status of a Latin American banana republic. That is the issue."

On March 11, 1969 the Times printed an editorial entitled "Tongue-Tied Justice." In view of the Times subsequent silence concerning the King case this editorial bears repeating. Excerpts of it read as follows:

"The aborted trial of James Earl Ray for the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is a shocking breach of faith with the American people, black and white, and of people the world over still numbed and puzzledby the gunfire that struck down this international leader...

Nothing but outrage and suspicion can follow the handling of this long-delayed and instantly snuffed-out trial...

In the ghetto and in the world outside the ghetto, the question still cries for an answer: was there a conspiracy to kill Dr. King and who was in it? ...

No one was demanding blood; everyone is demanding facts."

Nothing has changed since this editorial was written except that a courageous author has pursued and published many of the "facts" that the Times demanded. If the Times ignores this book it remains as responsible for a "breach of faith with the American people" as were the Memphis authorities who prevented a trial of Ray.

The Times has never had a better opportunity to prove that its editorials are anything more than so many eloquent but meaningless words.

Sincerely,

Jerry Policoff